

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-01
DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 MC-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 L-03 ACDA-07 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
/078 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:TBUCHANAN/HFO
APPROVED BY SECRETARY
AF:WESCHAUFLE
S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN
H:JBATWOOD

-----122052Z 042341 /70
O 122004Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081722

PASS SENATOR SCHWEIKER AND CONGRESSMAN BRADEMAM FM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:CG, MASS, PFOR

SUBJECT: AID TO ZAIRE.

1. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE AND POSSIBLE LIMITS TO IT. WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE SITUATION AND WE HAVE NOW DECIDED TO GO FORWARD WITH LIMITED ASSISTANCE UNDER THE PROGRAM ALREADY AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.
 2. YOU MAY FIND OUR POSITION SET OUT BELOW USEFUL IN YOUR TALKS WITH CHINESE OFFICIALS WHO WILL VERY LIKELY CONTRAST THEIR OWN FIRM SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU AND OPPOSITION TO THE INVASION OF ZAIRE WITH OUR MORE MEASURED REACTION. PEKING HAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO SEND MATERIEL
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ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE NATURE OF THE AID BEING OFFERED.

3. ESSENTIALLY WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE A POSITIVE, IF LIMITED, AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE TO ZAIRE'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. ZAIRE IS A LONG TIME FRIEND OF THE US AND IS PRESENTLY UNDER ATTACK BY AN INVADING FORCE COMING FROM

ANGOLA. WE WISH TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN A TEST OF AMERICAN WILL OR IN A MAJOR EAST/WEST CONFRONTATION, BUT A FAILURE TO SUPPORT ZAIRE WOULD HAVE WIDER IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR POSITION IN AFRICA.

4. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE THAT ANGOLAN, CUBAN OR SOVIET MILITARY ARE AMONG THE INVADERS BUT ASSUME THAT THEIR LEADERSHIP ACQUIESCED IN THE ATTACK AND ARE PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM ANGOLA.

5. A NUMBER OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE THREAT TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF A FELLOW OAU MEMBER. MOROCCO IS SENDING 1500 TROOPS. BELGIUM AND FRANCE ARE PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND SEVERAL COUNTRIES (INCLUDING CHINA) HAVE OFFERED OR ARE CONSIDERING SENDING AID (SUDAN AND EGYPT). OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PUBLICLY SUPPORTED ZAIRE INCLUDING: LIBERIA, MAURITIUS, AND RWANDA. STILL OTHERS SUCH AS SENEGAL, IVORY COAST, GABON, BOTSWANA, MAURITANIA, GHANA, KENYA AND SWAZILAND HAVE PRIVATELY INDICATED THEIR CONCERN OVER THE INVASION OF SHABA; SENEGAL AND RWANDA HAVE URGED US TO BE MORE SUPPORTIVE OF ZAIRE.

6. WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO ADVISE EITHER OUR ALLIES OR OTHER AFRICAN STATES ON HOW THEY SHOULD RESPOND TO ZAIRE'S REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT DID NOT CONSULT US IN ADVANCE ON THEIR DECISION TO SEND TROOPS BUT WE HOPE THE MOROCCAN COMMITMENT WILL HELP STABILIZE THE MILITARY SITUATION AND GIVE THE NIGERIAN

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DIPLOMATIC EFFORT A CHANCE TO WORK. THE NIGERIANS, WHO HAVE JUST MET WITH AN ANGOLAN DELEGATION, HAVE EXPRESSED THE SAME HOPE ALTHOUGH THEY STILL HAVE TO FULLY ANALYZE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MOROCCAN DECISION.

7. THE PRESIDENT WISHES TO EXTEND FURTHER TANGIBLE SUPPORT TO ZAIRE BUT IN A PRECISELY LIMITED MANNER. WE WILL SEND NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT AND ONLY UP TO THE AMOUNT ALREADY APPROVED BY CONGRESS FOR ZAIRE (AN ESTIMATED DOLLARS 30 MILLION REMAINING IN TRANSITIONAL QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR 1977 AUTHORIZATIONS). WITHIN THIS LIMIT THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES IMMEDIATELY TO HONOR PENDING ZAIRIAN REQUESTS FOR NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT VALUED AT DOLLARS 13 MILLION (DOLLARS NINE MILLION OF THIS SUM IS FOR ONE C-130 ON ORDER UNDER FY 1976 FMS CREDIT; OTHER REQUESTS ARE FOR POL, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS FOR C-130S, CESSNAS, TRUCKS AND JEEPS).

8. THE PRESIDENT IS ALSO CONSIDERING THE ACCELERATED

IMPLEMENTATION OF TWO CONGRESSIONALLY APPROVED 1977
PROGRAMS: (A) DOLLARS 16.6 MILLION FOR COMMODITY IMPORTS
UNDER SSA; (B) DOLLARS 14.9 MILLION UNDER PL 480.

9. CONCURRENTLY THE US WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
ENERGETICALLY THE NIGERIAN MEDIATION EFFORT BETWEEN
ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE NIGERIAN
AUTHORITIES AND FEEL THAT OUR EFFORTS WILL COMPLEMENT
THOSE OF NIGERIA TO BRING PEACE AND STABILITY TO CENTRAL
AFRICA.

10. I WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING YOUR VIEWS ON THE
FOREGOING.
VANCE

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